Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A system for placing a guide member through ~~the~~ a wall of a patient's heart so that the guide member can be extended ~~extends~~ through openings that are provided into and out of wall portions of a coronary vessel that runs along the heart wall and then through an opening that is also provided to the wall of the heart into a heart chamber, the system comprising:

an introducer sized and configured for placement through a coronary vessel and the wall of a patient's heart into a heart chamber; and

a guide member sized and configured to be positioned in the introducer and placed through the coronary vessel and the heart wall into the heart chamber, the guide member having a proximal portion adapted to remain outside the heart and a distal portion adapted to be passed into and then back out of the heart chamber; and

a conduit sized and configured for placement in the wall of the heart so as to communicate the heart chamber with a coronary vessel, the conduit configured to be slidable along the guide member from the distal end of the guide member for delivery to and through the wall of the heart chamber and placement in the wall of the heart to provide a fluid connection between the heart chamber and the lumen of the coronary vessel;

wherein the guide member can be ~~is~~ passed through the introducer ~~and moves~~ so as to be movable through the coronary vessel and the heart wall to a location within the heart chamber.

2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the introducer is a hollow sleeve, the guide member is a guide wire, and the distal portion of the guide wire includes a distal end that is passed through the introducer.

3. (original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a device adapted to remove the

guide member from the heart chamber.

4. (original) The system of claim 3, wherein the device is a snare adapted to grasp the guide member and pull the guide member out of the heart chamber.

5. (currently amended) The system of claim 3, wherein the distal portion of the guide member is configured to include an enlarged surface portion to be carried out of the heart chamber by blood flowing out of the heart chamber.

6. (original) The system of claim 5, wherein the distal portion of the guide member supports a balloon that is engaged by blood flowing out of the heart chamber.

7. (original) The system of claim 6, wherein the guide member comprises a guide wire coupled to a catheter supporting the balloon, and the balloon pulls the catheter and the guide wire into the heart chamber.

8. (currently amended) A system for placing a guide member through ~~the~~ a wall of a patient's heart so that the guide member can be extended ~~extends~~ through openings that are provided into and out of wall portions of a coronary vessel that runs along the heart wall and then through an opening that is also provided to the wall of the heart into a heart chamber, the system comprising:

an introducer sized and configured for placement through the coronary vessel and wall of a patient's heart into a heart chamber; and

a guide member sized and configured to be passed through the coronary vessel and the heart wall into the heart chamber, the guide member having a proximal portion adapted to remain outside the heart and a distal portion adapted to be passed into the heart chamber, the distal portion of the guide member including an expandable portion that is configured to be carried out of the heart chamber by blood flowing out of the heart chamber;

wherein one of the introducer and the guide member is configured to direct the distal portion of the guide member to a predetermined location within the heart chamber upon introducing the guide member into the chamber.

9. (currently amended) A system for delivering a conduit into the wall of a patient's heart to fluidly communicate a coronary vessel that runs along the heart wall with a heart chamber on the other side of the heart wall, the system comprising:

an introducer configured for placement through the heart wall and into a heart chamber;

a guide member sized and configured to be positioned in the introducer and placed through the heart wall into the heart chamber; and

a conduit sized and configured for placement in the wall of the heart so as to communicate the heart chamber with a coronary vessel, the conduit configured to be ~~coupled to~~ slidable along the guide member from the distal end of the guide member for delivery to and through the wall of ~~into~~ the heart chamber and placement in the wall of the heart.

10. (original) The system of claim 11 wherein the guide member is a guide wire.

11. (original) The system of claim 9, wherein the guide member is coupled to the conduit by a detachable coupling mechanism.

12. (original) The system of claim 11, wherein the conduit is supported by a delivery device that is coupled to the guide wire.

13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the delivery device has a clamp for locking the delivery device to the guide wire.

14. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the delivery device has a support

removably disposed within the conduit.

15. (original) The system of claim 9, further comprising a device for removing the guide wire from the heart chamber.

16. (currently amended) A method for placing a guide member in a patient's heart so that the guide member extends through openings that are provided into and our of wall portions of a coronary vessel that runs along the heart wall and then through an opening that is also provided to the wall of the heart into a heart chamber containing blood, the method comprising steps of:

(a) passing a first end of a guide member through openings into and out of the coronary vessel and through an opening through the wall of the heart so that the guide member passes through the coronary vessel and into the heart chamber containing blood;

(b) maintaining a second end of the guide member outside the heart chamber; and

(c) passing the first end of the guide member back out of the heart chamber and out of the heart so that the first end of the guide member is accessible from outside the heart.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein step (a) is carried out by passing the ~~a~~ first end of the guide member through the coronary vessel and the heart wall into the heart chamber and then passing the first end of the guide member back out of the heart chamber, and wherein the method further comprises the step of delivering a conduit to the heart wall by positioning the conduit onto the guide member as provided by moving the conduit onto the guide member from the accessible first end of the guide member ~~wherein the first end of the guide member is then used to deliver the conduit~~.

18. (canceled)

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 ~~18~~, further comprising introducing a snare into one of the heart chamber that the guide member has been passed into, another heart chamber and a vessel that is in fluid communication with a heart chamber ~~through the heart wall into the heart chamber~~ and grasping the guide member to remove the first end of the guide member from the heart ~~chamber~~.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the first end of the guide member is configured to be forced out of the heart chamber by blood flow to pull at least the first end of the guide member out of the heart chamber.

21. (currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the heart chamber that the guide member has been passed into is the left ventricle and the first end of the guide member is forced from the left ventricle into the aorta by blood flow and is then removed from the aorta.

22. (original) The method of claim 16, further comprising using the guide member to deliver a tissue removal device into the heart chamber for use in removing tissue from the heart wall.

23. (new) The method of claim 17, wherein the step of delivering the conduit to the heart wall is conducted by moving the conduit as has been provided onto the guide member into the heart chamber and then at least partially through the opening of the heart wall leading into a lumen of the coronary vessel so as to establish a fluid communication between the heart chamber and the lumen of the coronary vessel, the method further including the step of removing the guide member leaving the conduit in place within the heart wall.

Claims 23-32 (cancelled).